

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, June 4, 2012
The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Ira Berkowitz	Laurel Harrington
Brad Bernstein	Darryl Higuchi
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Marguerite Garrick	Melanie Tamsky
Michelle Harris	

Excused/Absent:

Andrea Maddox-Dallas

Also Present:

Eric Gruenenfelder
Toni Siering

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May meeting were approved as amended.

Addresses from the Audience: There were no addresses from the audience.

Fees & Charges Recommendation for FY 2013 Budget: Mr. Gruenenfelder noted that the prices for the FY13 SPAC passes were changed as recommended at the last meeting. There was limited discussion on the fact that it is cheaper for two adults to purchase a family membership. Mr. Gruenenfelder noted that this was similar to the pricing structure at The Center of Clayton.

Mr. Schneider motioned to approve the FY13 Fees and Chargers for Shaw Park Aquatic Center as submitted. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.

Director's Report:

-St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article: Mr. Gruenenfelder reviewed the article that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday, June 3, 2012. Mr. Schneider inquired about advertising opportunities for local restaurants. Mr. Schneider suggested creating an advertising policy for Parks and Recreation facilities; Ms. Harris noted that this may be a topic for future discussion.

-Accreditation Update: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported that the Department has submitted its application for accreditation to NRPA. Visitors will be in Clayton July 9-12 to review the application. There will be a reception on Monday, July 9 at 6:30pm for the visitors, Commission and staff. Formal invitations will follow. Mr. Gruenenfelder noted that, should Clayton Parks and Recreation pass the accreditation process, we will be the fourth city in Missouri to be accredited.

-Program Update: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported that 240 participants were enrolled in Parks and Recreation camps this week. SummerQuest will return this year and starts next Monday, June 11. In addition, personal training revenue is strong this fiscal year; at the end of April, training revenue was approximately \$32,000 ahead of this time last year. Finally, Shaw Park Aquatic Center had a very busy opening weekend:

- 2,290 people visited SPAC over the weekend, an increase of 38% or 627 over 2011
- 861 Daily Admissions were sold for a total of \$5,166
- As of June 3, 888 passes had been sold for a total of \$144,412

- Project Updates:

Shaw Park Tennis Center: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported that construction began on Shaw Park Tennis Center last week with the removal of the fencing. Demolition is scheduled to begin Tuesday, June 5.

Century Garden Cafe: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported he and Ms. Renard have a meeting scheduled with the concessions vendor about the Café. He noted that Ms. DeForrest hopes we can have the Café open in 2-3 weeks.

Oak Knoll Park Project Update: Mr. Gruenenfelder reminded the Commission of last month's report on the water issues that residents on Southmoor and Ridgemoor are continuing to experience (see May 7, 2012 minutes). MSD's current plans include: two 10-foot retaining walls with railings, as the basin is now smaller but deeper; planting native wetland plants in the basin and saving trees in the area. City staff (including City Manager Mr. Craig Owens, Public Works Director Mr. Mike Pratt and Parks & Recreation Director Ms. DeForrest) has met with MSD to discuss mitigations to the proposed plans. Concerns include construction of the retaining walls, view of the residents from Ridgemoor, landscaping around the basin. It is believed the basin will be environmentally beneficial and educational, as staff is planning on including interpretive signage with the project.

MSD is holding a public meeting on June 21 at 7:00pm at The Center of Clayton regarding the project in Oak Knoll Park. Residents on Southmoor and Ridgemoor have been invited to attend to provide input on the project. Ms. Harris encouraged members of the Commission to attend this meeting to speak on behalf of Oak Knoll Park.

Old Business / New Business:

Haddington Court Dog Park: Ms. Siering reported on the Dog Park Open House, which was held on Thursday, May 24. There were approximately 15 residents in attendance at the open house, most of whom had general questions about the dog park including, hours, parking amenities, fencing and landscaping. Overall, comments were positive and most residents in attendance seemed to support the concept. Going forward, the dog park supporters will raise money for construction of the dog park through private donations with the assistance of the Clayton Century Foundation. The City will not begin construction until the funds are in place.

Ice Rink Design Workshop: Mr. Gruenenfelder reported that valuable input was received during the Ice Rink Design Workshop on May 17. Jacobs is expected to report back to Parks and Recreation staff within several weeks. There was further discussion amongst the Commission regarding ensuring that the City does not duplicate efforts in recreation so that the Ice Rink is a unique facility.

Center of Clayton Summer Hours: Mr. Bernstein noted that his children were disappointed in the summer hours at The Center of Clayton. Ms. Siering provided feedback on how the hours were developed and comments received to date.

Commissioner Resignation: Ms. Deem reported that Ms. Rosemary Hardy has resigned her position on the Parks and Recreation Commission effective in April. Therefore, Ms. Deem reminded Commissioners to promptly reply to meeting requests so that staff can determine if there will be a quorum for upcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted By:

Toni Siering